

MATTHEWS VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 1, 2017

Minutes

Chairperson Fisk Outwater called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Matthews Town Hall with a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Angelo Renguso read a short prayer.

Committee Members present: Fisk Outwater, Tom Cannon, Gregg Smith, Nobie Thrasher, Angelo Renguso, Amanda Kohout, Janet Perkins, Larry Stawicki, Kathleen Wilsbach, Ed Dement, and Freddie Baylor

Guests welcomed: Fisk welcomed David Laws, Director of the American Red Cross, Western North Carolina Region.

David Laws, a U. S. Naval Academy graduate, gave an overview and power point presentation of the history and current mission of the American Red Cross. Interesting facts were that Clara Barton was the founder and first president of the American Red Cross during the Civil War. Congress chartered the American Red Cross in 1900. 2017 is the organization's centennial year. Services continue today to U. S. Armed Services across the globe. The government does not fund the Red Cross. It operates on private and corporate donations. Through the partnership with Military Aid Societies, the Red Cross connects service members and their families to emergency financial assistance on a 24/7 basis. In 1946, the American Red Cross started the Blood Donation Drives that continue today. David gave a handout to the MVAC that expands on its services. A local goal is to gather veteran groups to install smoke detectors free of charge to veterans and others in need. Contact Judith.Ross@redcross.org for more information. The Red Cross consists of mostly volunteers. To volunteer go to RedCross.org. To set up a CPR course contact David Laws at david.laws@redcross.org.

Minutes of January 10, 2017. The minutes were approved as transmitted.

Old Business:

1. **Subcommittee 1.** Tom Cannon announced that a MVAC meeting sign to be placed in the entrance to the ToM library was added to committee's objectives. The request for funding for two banners was being forwarded to the ToM in February. A draft of a half-page handout describing the mission of the MVAC was in development and a MVAC news release was sent to the ToM for approval on January 24th. A Prospective Member Packet including a cover letter by the MVAC Chairman, Bylaws, SOPs, Summary of Subcommittees and membership was ready.

2. **Subcommittee 2.** Amanda Kohout said committee would like the three-month rolling Calendar of Events to be part of the ToM Website to be available to other organizations and communicating resources. The MVAC plans for a ToM Signature Event to be held in May of 2018 are in the initial planning stage. Working with the Town Clerk, a Signature Event Proposal to the ToM will seek to make this presentation at the 13 March meeting of the Town Council. The proposal will include a one-page bullet statement outlining the event as well as supporting explanatory documentation. This information will be provided to the Mayor and Commissioners ahead of their meeting for their review, and so that it can be submitted as a possible consent item. The MVAC Chairperson and Vice

Chairperson would be available during the ToM pre-meeting should the Council have any questions. If this is not possible, the Proposal will be submitted as a normal agenda item for regular 7 p.m. meeting of the ToM.

3. **Subcommittee 3.** No report.

4. **Subcommittee 4.** Gregg Smith reported that the committee will start the process of splitting the NC4Vets magazine among committee to identify local resources by the end of March. Janet Perkins asked for a clarification of the subcommittee #4's (Resources and Awareness) role in identifying resources and the overlap by subcommittee 2. Ed Dement said that in preparing the calendar of events other resources are found. Fisk said there may be overlap and he would review.

5. Fisk said that the discussion about a MVAC Facebook page continues with ToM Staff and that proposed MVAC Bylaw changes voted on at the February meeting were passed to the Town Clerk.

6. The Vietnam War Exhibit has been approved to be held during an 11 day window around May 20, 2017—Armed Forces Day at the Matthews Community Center. Times TBA.

New Business:

1. Fisk needs funding requirements from all subcommittees for fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 as soon as possible.

2. Fisk will deliver the MVAC Executive Briefing to the ToM in April, 2017.

3. Fisk changed wording on SOP's regarding MVAC Officer positions, B.1.(e) to read as follows: (e). Bylaws, SOP 's, Form letters and all dated documents: The Vice-Chairperson will be the overseer of and authority on the Bylaws and SOP's of the MVAC. A review of all MVAC documents will be conducted annually and reported during the June meeting.

4. Prospective new member Jim Whatley's application is pending.

5. Visitor and veteran Neal Broome was introduced. Mr. Broome has a committee that is planning a two-day event at Camp Greene in Charlotte. Camp Greene was established as a military training camp for 60 thousand troops during WWI. The centennial celebration will be held on July 15 and 16. To volunteer or for more information contact Neal Broome at 704-375-6148.

6. Fisk plans to send thank you notes to all of MVAC guest speakers. He has requested that all MVAC documents be dated and pages numbered. Internal documents do not need ToM approval.

7. Regarding Subcommittees' Goals, Objectives and Action Plans, Fisk will update and send to subcommittees. Committee heads should submit any other changes or additions back to Fisk for a final version. Ed Dement said that the library offers classes in Excel and other computer courses.

8. Nobie Thrasher is locally heading the "Miles for the Military" fund for the USO-NC. He requested help in raising \$10k and is personally running for this effort. To help fund go to www.gofundme.com/MilesforTheMilitary. This project will continue through mid November.

9. Ed Dement announced that Thelma's Coffee Shop in Salisbury at the Old Salisbury Mall will be giving free lunches to Vietnam vets and one guest on Wednesday, March 29th as a Vietnam veteran celebration and also to recognize Hospice Care.

10. Janet Perkins, MVAC member and President of Veteran Transport Services announced that her organization will have a Signature Golfing Event at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation in Mint Hill on September 21st to assist blind veterans to golf. Volunteers are needed to help these blind veterans experience the outdoors and learn to golf. This will be a fundraising event to hire drivers to transport blind veterans.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by:
Kathleen Wilsbach, Secretary